

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated immaturable unialgal culture strain derived from spores of a marine macroalga of red algae which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. having characteristics that no matured female gametophytes are detectable and only matured tetrasporophytes are detectable, said immaturable unialgal culture strain being obtained by the steps comprising: selectively collecting alga bodies, which have characteristics that no female gametophytes are detectable and only tetrasporophytes are detectable, from among matured bodies of a marine macroalga of red algae which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. growing in a natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water; washing the matured portions of the tetrasporophytes of the collected alga bodies with sterilized water or sterilized seawater; keeping the matured portions standing to cause release of spores; and culturing the released alga spores in sterilized seawater; and wherein the isolated immaturable unialgal culture strain does not mature after storage or continuous culturing for three years or longer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim ~~1~~², wherein the red alga which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies of either *Gracilaria verrucosa* or *Gracilaria chorda*.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain derived from spores of a marine macroalga of red algae which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. having characteristics that no matured female gametophytes are detectable and only matured tetrasporophytes are detectable, comprising the steps of selectively collecting alga bodies, which have characteristics that no female gametophytes are detectable and only tetrasporophytes are detectable, from among matured bodies of a marine macroalga of red algae which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. growing in a

natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water; washing the matured portions of the tetrasporophytes of the collected alga bodies with sterilized water or sterilized seawater; keeping the matured portions standing to cause release of spores; and culturing the released alga spores in sterilized seawater.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 56, wherein the red alga which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies of either *Gracilaria verrucosa* or *Gracilaria chorda*.

8. (Withdrawn) The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 5, wherein the natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water is a seawater area where the salt content does not exceed 1.0% by mass.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An alga body obtained by growing the immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The alga body according to claim 1044, wherein the red alga which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies of either *Gracilaria verrucosa* or *Gracilaria chorda*.

13. (Cancelled)